

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for establishing wireless communication between a computer and a local area network, comprising:
receiving a signal broadcast by at least one wireless port of the local area network;
evaluating said signal to determine a type of said at least one wireless port; and
initiating a connection protocol based on said type of said at least one wireless port.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving signals broadcast by a plurality of wireless ports of the local area network; and
selecting one of said signals.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein said evaluating said signal comprises
evaluating said selected signal.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein said selecting comprises selecting one of
said signals based on at least one of a strength and a clarity thereof.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
attempting to establish a connection between the computer and said at least one wireless
port by way of said connection protocol.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
providing the local area network with at least one security identifier upon completion of
said establishing said connection.

7. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
receiving another signal from another wireless port of the local area network;
evaluating said another signal to determine a type of said another wireless port;
initiating a connection protocol based on said type of said another wireless port; and
attempting to establish a connection between the computer and said another wireless port
by way of said connection protocol when said attempting to establish said
connection between the computer and said at least one wireless port is not
completed.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein said receiving said another signal
comprises moving the computer to another location.

9. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
selecting another local area network with which to connect the computer when said connection between the computer and said at least one wireless port is not established using said connection protocol.
10. A method for selecting a connection protocol to be used to wirelessly connect a computer to a local area network, comprising:
receiving at least one signal;
determining whether said at least one signal is being broadcast by a wireless port of the local area network;
evaluating said at least one signal to determine a type of wireless port by which said at least one signal is being broadcast; and
if said at least one signal is being broadcast by a wireless port of the local area network, initiating a connection protocol that is compatible with said wireless port.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein said determining comprises determining that a plurality of received signals are being broadcast by wireless ports of the local area network.
12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:
selecting one of said plurality of received signals.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein said selecting comprises:
evaluating at least one of a strength and a clarity of each of said plurality of received signals.
14. The method of claim 12, wherein said initiating comprises attempting to establish communication with a wireless port by which said selected signal is being broadcast.

15. A workstation configured to select a connection protocol for establishing wireless communication with a local area network, comprising:
at least one processor;
at least one wireless network access device in communication with said at least one processor; and
at least one storage medium configured to communicate with said at least one processor, said at least one storage medium comprising instructions stored in data format for:
causing said at least one wireless network access device to receive at least one signal being broadcast by a wireless port of the local area network and to communicate said at least one signal to said at least one processor in a format recognizable by said at least one processor;
enabling said at least one processor to evaluate said at least one signal to identify a type of wireless port from which said at least one signal was broadcast;
and
instructing said at least one processor to select a connection protocol appropriate for establishing communication with said wireless port based on said type thereof.
16. The workstation of claim 15, wherein said at least one storage medium further includes instructions for:
causing said at least one processor to instruct said at least one wireless network access device to initiate said connection protocol; and
if communication is established between said at least one wireless network access device and said wireless port, causing said at least one processor to communicate at least one security identifier to the local area network.
17. The workstation of claim 16, wherein said instructions cause said at least one processor to automatically communicate said at least one security identifier to the local area network.
18. The workstation of claim 16, wherein said instructions cause said at least one processor to query a user to enter said at least one security identifier through an input device of the workstation prior to causing said at least one processor to communicate said at least one security identifier to the local area network.

19. The workstation of claim 15, wherein said at least one storage medium further includes instructions for:
enabling said at least one processor to identify at least one signal that was
broadcast by a wireless port of the local area network from a plurality of
signals received by said at least one wireless network access device.

20. The workstation of claim 19, wherein said at least one storage medium further includes instructions for:
causing said at least one processor to select a single signal from a plurality of
signals that were broadcast by wireless ports of the local area network.

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